

INFORMATION PACKAGE: Naming the new park on St Patrick Street, in the Relic Linear Park System

A new 1,000-square-metre park has been designed and will be constructed in 2025, on St Patrick Street, south of Dundas Street West. The Grange Community Association (GCA) is seeking your support for the commemorative bilingual name:

Asini-Aadisookaan-aki / Stone Spirit Park.

The new park is part of the Relic Linear Park System, a community-led vision that features architectural relic stones and Indigenous artwork within the Grange Park neighbourhood, along with native trees and plantings. The linear park will run from the Southern Gateway Boulevard at Queen and Simcoe streets (completed in 2023, beside Campbell House Museum) to the northern gateway at Dundas Street West and McCaul Street (kitty corner from the Art Gallery of Ontario, construction in 2025). The new park on St Patrick Street is a major component along the linear park's route.

A focal point of the new park will be Anishnaabe artist Michael Belmore's monumental stone sculpture, commissioned by the City of Toronto and called *Mishibizhiig: The Underwater Panther*.

You can see the detailed design of the new park and find more information about the Relic Linear Park System here: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/new-parks-facilities/relic-linear-park-system/>

The new park is guided by the Grange Green Plan:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-118294.pdf>

And the Relic Park Prospectus: <https://www.campbellhousemuseum.ca/resources/>

Under the City's Property Naming Policy, the City "considers commemorative naming proposals for City properties that, if adopted, would enhance equity and inclusion in placemaking and promote a broader understanding of history and its legacy on communities." As defined on the city's website, "*Commemoration is an intentional act of acknowledging the memory of people, places, events and ideas.*" The GCA believes that the park should have a commemorative name because of the architectural relic stones and Indigenous artwork that are integrated into the new park's design.

As part of our application to the City, proposing the commemorative bilingual name **Asini-Aadisookaan-aki / Stone Spirit Park**, we must provide feedback from other people, via letters, emails, or other documentation. Please feel free to adapt the attached template letter to provide your feedback. **Send your feedback to Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, President, Grange Community Association, to her email address: ceta_r@yahoo.ca**

➤ SEE ATTACHED LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM ARTIST MICHAEL BELMORE

INFORMATION FROM CITY WEBSITE

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/new-parks-facilities/relic-linear-park-system/>

- 1000 m² park (about the size of two tennis courts)

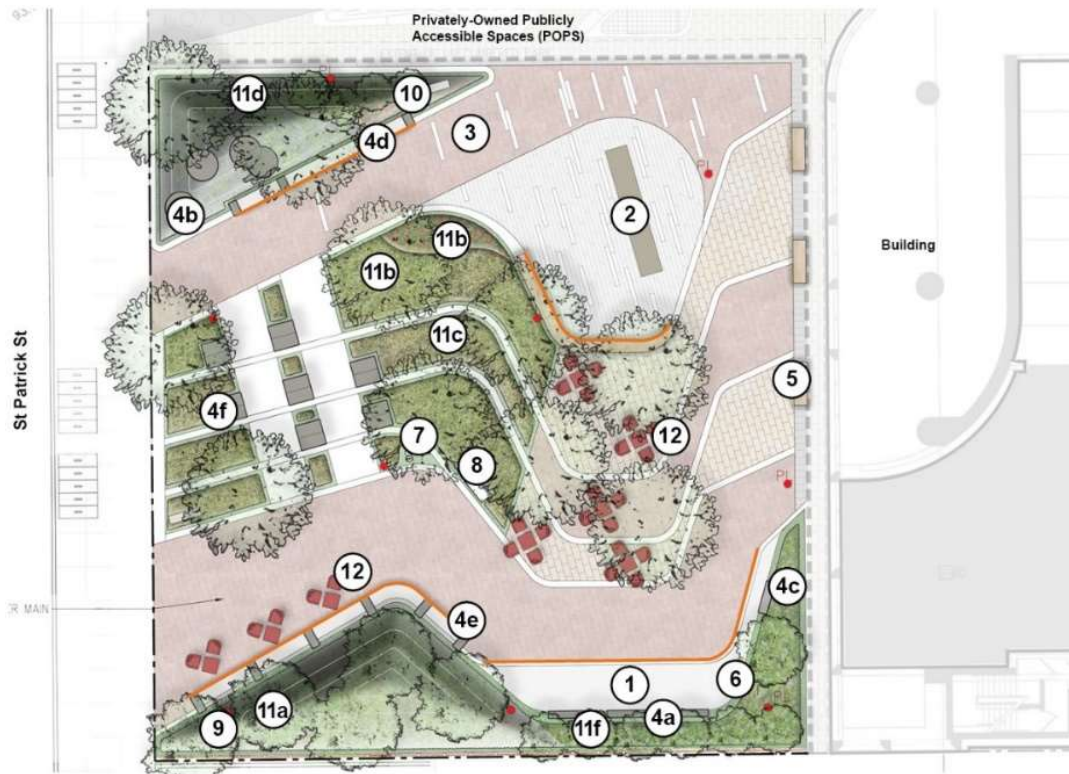
Vision

- Reflecting the Grange Green Plan, the parks [i.e., one on St Patrick; one at McCaul/Dundas] will incorporate both functional and decorative hand-carved, repurposed, stone relics from Toronto's more recent settler colonial architectural history. Relic-themed artworks by Indigenous artists will be incorporated to reflect the ongoing and historic presence of Indigenous peoples on these lands since time immemorial. The parks will provide lush, green, and calm spaces with a variety of seating areas where community members can sit, relax, connect with others, and reflect on our rapidly changing city.

Big Moves

1. Incorporate native trees and plantings, to create a lush greenspace with shade.
2. Include plentiful seating opportunities of various styles, including tables.
3. Incorporate a feature sculpture by Anishinaabe artist Michael Belmore.
4. Incorporate repurposed settler colonial architectural relics in both functional and decorative ways throughout the park.
5. Provide flexible space that can be used for community events.





Legend

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| 1. Stage | 7. Water bottle filler |
| 2. Sculpture by Michael Belmore
(Anishinaabe artist) | 8. Garbage bins |
| 3. Wave paving | 9. Electrical panel |
| 4. Architectural relics: | 10. Interpretive signage |
| a. Floral mantels | 11. Planting: |
| b. Fluted columns | a. White pine |
| c. Shell basic | b. Birch trees |
| d. Short scrolls | c. Native grasses |
| e. Long scrolls | d. Red cedar |
| f. Lion's column | e. Native planting |
| 5. Benches with backs and armrest | f. Aspen trees |
| 6. Electrical connection for events | 12. Café tables with game top and chairs |
- Orange lines indicate linear bench seating.
- Red dots indicate pole lighting.

Sculpture by Indigenous Artist by Michael Belmore



MICHAEL BELMORE PRELIMINARY SCULPTURE DESIGN



Mishibizhiig: The Underwater Panther

Artist statement by Michael Belmore, Anishinaabe artist

agwaayaashkaa – waves come ashore

Liminal sites, such as shorelines that mark the threshold between opposing elements of water, and the earth and sky – like liminal states of beings, as in the dream between sleep and awake – are spiritually active places.

In the Anishinaabe world view, the universe is understood to be comprised of layers. Divided into contrasting upper and lower worlds and zones of power, this tiered cosmos is animated by the ongoing and reciprocal interaction of beings and persons both natural and spiritual. The mishibizhiig – the underwater panthers – reside in the lower realms of water. With lynx-like

bodies, metallic scales, horns, and the tail of a serpent, mishibizhiig rule the lakes, rivers, caves, and deep crevices in the earth.

Blending the stone traditions of Ojibway and European cultures, the carved figures are meant to be reminiscent of stone gargoyles and grotesques from western architecture. As ancestor Anishinaabe artists would paint narrative images of underwater panthers and beings on cliff faces along the shoreline, so too do these carved figures preside and guard over what lies below.

The artwork will comprise of granite blocks with hand carved bas-relief images of several mishibizhiig. The mostly black granite that forms the sculpture will be sourced from within Canada. The use of granite is intended to create a contrast from the other carved relics found within the project, granite compared to limestone or sandstone.